Proposals on Science and Technology

2067. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals regarding science and technology forwarded by various State Governments during the last two years, State- wise;

(b) the decision taken by Government on these proposals and the
- number of proposals approved; and

(c) the number of proposals which are lying pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Department of Science and Technology supports scientific research proposals received from research institutions. Therefore, the department does not provide financial assistance to State Governments. Hence, no proposal was received from the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Selection of projects for women scientists

2068. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be-pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Science and Technology used to select projects as a part of "Women Scientists Scheme":

(b) if so, the details of projects selected during the period 2005-06;

(c) if so, the present status of above selected projects;

(d) if so, whether above selected projects will start only after it accorded financial sanction;

(e) if so, whether financial sanction of projects selected under above scheme for the period 2005-06 is communicated to respective scientists;

(f) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor, and

(g) the details including date of selection, date of submission of documents by selected women scientists?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During the period 2005-06,133 women scientists were selected under the various Fellowship Schemes for Women Scientists viz. WOS-A, WOS-B and WOS-C, in Basic and Applied Sciences, S&T Application in Rural Areas and Intellectual Property Rights and Related Matters respectively.

(c) Out of the 133 Women Scientists selected, financial sanctions have been issued for 96 women scientists. In 37 cases the documents/ quotations/clarifications/bond from women scientists are still awaited.

(d) to (f) 13 Selection Committee meetings in different subject areas were held during April, 2005 to March, 2006 for selecting women scientists for the WOS-A and WOS-B scheme. In the case of WOS-C, 28 women candidates were selected to undergo one year's training on Intellectual Property Rights and Related Matters, after an All India Written Examination. They are undergoing on the job training with leading Attorney Firms, Government institutions and agencies. Recommendations of the Selection Committees were conveyed to the women scientists within 60 days of the recommendations having been finalized. Women scientists take three to four months on an average to send necessary documents required for financial sanction. After which the file is processed for concurrence of finance division, in cases where financial concurrence have been obtained and formalities regarding documents/quotations/ clarifications/bond as per requirement completed, financial sanctions have been issued. In 29 cases out of the 133 selected candidates, documents are still awaited and hence sanctions have not been issued.

(g) Details regarding date of selection, date of submission of documents, etc. by selected women scientists are being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.